

UNCLASSIFIED 02/16/77

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**TELEGRAM**

BN025

CONTROL: 1232  
15 Feb 77  
1232

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

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B1

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

REF:

FROM AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

GDS  
PIINT, PINS, ASEC, AR  
ERP Document Calling for Popular Front ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full

(X) Classify as S ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date 5/21/01 Declassify on Reason 2F(X)

BUENOS AIRES 1232

(A) Quito 0951, (B) Buenos Aires 1027

1. From text of article it is apparent it based on ERP communi-  
que issued last November. EFE has exercised considerable  
literary license however. Communique denounces repressive  
policies of Videla government and calls for popular front of  
all progressive forces, but it does not repeat not renounce  
armed struggle. It admits that among popular forces there are  
currents opposed to armed struggle, but this is matter to be  
left for later discussion. Meanwhile, ERP intends to pursue it.  
As of December 31, 1976, per information available to GOA, the  
ERP, along with its political element, the Revolutionary  
Workers' Party (PRT), was still giving priority attention to  
trying to organize a resistance movement to the government,  
primarily from within labor [ ] B1

AMB  
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~~CHRON~~

DRAFTED BY:

POL:WSSmith:mg

DRAFTING DATE

2/15/77

TEL. EXT.

128

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CHARGE: MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

POL/R:DLSmock (in draft) WBS

DAO:ColPACoughlin (in draft) WBS

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OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)  
(Formerly FS-413(H))  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

80F178  
2.1.05

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2. ERP communique found no response among "popular forces" to whom it directed. UCR, Intransigentes, Christian Democrats, PCA and others who were mentioned in communique did meet recently to discuss current situation and their positions in it, but ERP not invited and none is likely to even consider including it in any future coalescence of forces. As one UCR rep put it: "To talk to ERP, in eyes of government, would place us in same boat with them, which is last thing we want. Only reason they are talking of popular front now is because they have been defeated militarily. There was time when they lumped us in with AAA as fascists; now they appeal to us for support. Nothing doing."

3. Interestingly, there had been earlier reports, which we had not been able to confirm, that ERP had indeed tried to negotiate with government, offering to renounce armed struggle in return for GOA's agreement to treat ERP as a legitimate political party if it did so. GOA reportedly refused outright.

4. In Ambassador Hill's conversation with Foreign Minister Guzzetti on February 11, latter virtually confirmed these reports. When matter of communique was raised, he replied that it doubtless had to do with ERP's earlier effort to persuade GOA to accept it as political party in return for renunciation of violence. GOA, he said, had refused. One could have no faith in ERP's willingness to live up to such a commitment, and, anyway, most in ERP were criminals and

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murderers to whom no amnesty would apply.

5. Comment: Communique is only interesting as evidence that calling for united front ERP is on the run; they would not be ~~offering to negotiate~~ if they were not. It by no means represents a surrender or renunciation of their basic tactics however.

6. Embassy grateful to Quito for text of El Comercio article, which was very helpful in putting things in perspective.

CHAPLIN

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